

Fast Facts About Township Government Cooperation

Townships are Leading the Way in Providing Efficient Services for Michigan Families

General Facts

- There are 1,242 townships in Michigan.
- Michigan is one of 20 states that have the township form of government.
- Michigan is 12th nationally in total number of local governments.*
- Michigan is 32nd nationally in total number of governments per person.*
- More than half of Michigan's population (50.1 percent) is located in townships.

Tax Burden

- Michigan's local government tax burden as a percentage of personal income equals *3 percent* while the national average is 4.13 percent.
- Michigan is 41st nationally in local government tax burden.

Fire and Safety

- There are 506 townships that operate their own fire department.
- There are 660 townships that operate a joint fire operation with another community or contract with another community for fire protection.
- There are 90 townships that operate their own police department.
- There are 261 townships that receive police patrols through contract or some other agreement.
- There are 85 townships that operate their own ambulance service.
- There are 136 townships that operate a joint ambulance service.
- There are 401 townships that contract for ambulance services.

Zoning

- There are 822 townships that have their own zoning.
- There are 233 townships that have county zoning.

It is also very common to find townships cooperating on services related to assessing, libraries, parks and recreation, environmental efforts, sewer and water services.

** Figures from the U.S. Census Bureau that includes schools and charter schools in the definition of local government. Because Michigan ranks 4th nationally in the number of charter schools, these figures actually inflate the number of local governments in Michigan.*